

Newsletter November 2016



The Association has a web site: - www.hgsafety.co.uk

HSE Web Link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Our Contact Details are as follows:

Office Tel:	01432 343626
Chris Livall	07879 417808
Nick Jones	07789 078779
Adrian Hatton	07767 864466
Louise Evans	07768 713707

Topics

- **Winter approaches (wind)**
- **Permit to Dig**
- **Director of property business failed to check competence**
- **Common issues**
- **Rogues Gallery**

Permit to Dig

We have seen an increase in underground services being struck by machines and men with tools, the following permit to dig (guidance) shows good practice that should be considered when preparing to dig and starting to dig and can be given to your groundworkers or incorporate in the a tool box talk given on sites.

Winter approaches

With winter now knocking on the door, we have selected one element of weather (wind) following chart gives good practice that should be taken into consideration when the conditions depict.

Good Practice for Digging – Permit to Dig (Guidance)

Prior to Starting Work

Ensure that you have all the updated plans of the underground services in the area.

- Always use a cable and pipe detector to trace electricity cables and metal pipes. **(Ensure that the CAT Detector is checked and calibrated prior to use the operative is trained to use the detector.)**
- Always mark the positions of the cables and pipes using paint or other waterproof marking on the ground.
- Look for signs of service connection cables or pipes, e.g. gas meter or service connection entry into a house or streetlight.
- Hand dig holes (as many as required) to confirm the position of the services within the area of your work. **(Depths of cables should never be assumed and marked on any drawings.)**
- Ensure a member of the Site Team has identified the works areas and makes reference to site drawings, surveys, etc.

When You Start Work

- Hand dig buried services. Remember spades and shovels are safer than picks, pins, or forks.
- Ensure that any cable, which is embedded in concrete and has to be broken out, has been isolated (made dead) before work starts.
- Watch out for signs of services as work continues. Repeat checks with the cable and pipe detector as the excavation progresses.
- Where ground conditions change and equipment being used become ineffective, the Permit to Dig must be reviewed by the Authorised Person.
- Backfill around services with a fine material. **Do not use** flints, bricks, concrete, etc.
- **Do not use** hand held power tools within a minimum distance of 500mm of the marked position of any electric cable.
- **Do not use** hand power tools directly over the marked line of a cable unless:
You have already found the cable at that position by careful hand digging beneath the service and it is a safe depth (min 300mm).
Physical means have been used to prevent the tool from striking it.
- **Do not use** a mechanical excavator within a minimum distance of 500mm of any services. If an excavator is used near any electricity cable keep everyone clear of the bucket while it is digging.
- **Do not use** exposed services as a stepping point or handhold.
- **Do not** install plant close to any existing service.

Winter Weather Approaches (Wind)

Readiness Code	Average Wind Speed	Gust Speed	Activity Guidance	General Guidance
GREEN	Below 17mph (27kph) 7.7 m/sec)	25mph (40kph) or below 11.5 m/sec)	Safe for all Site operations	Maintain good Housekeeping Standards
YELLOW	23mph or above (37kph) (10.3 m/sec)	35mph (58kph) or above (15.5 m/sec)	Cease built-up felt roofing, mastic asphalt, slating and tiling, sheeting and decking	Check ground level storage and housekeeping. On exposed site take extreme care with all roofing operations. Check roofs for loose objects. Extra care with crane handling of shutters, sheet materials
RED	Average 38mph (61kph) OR Average 30mph (48kph) with gusts	45mph (72kph) or above	Cease crane and hoist use were exposed. Cease formwork decking.	Checking scaffolds, roofs for loose materials, missing ties. Check security of scaffold boards, sheeting, etc. If applicable.
BLACK	Average 45mph Or gusts	50mph (80kph) or above	Cease all external or exposed activities.	Assess safety of access to internal works. Check if there are external materials that could be blown around such as sheet materials. IF IN DOUBT STOPWORK

Director of property business failed to check competence

The director of a real estate business and a contractor he engaged have both been given suspended prison sentences following the death of a workman who fell through a roof light in June 2013.

Warrington Crown Court heard how Terry Lewis was working with his friend, Leigh Bakewell cleaning roof lights on the roof of a building at Radnor Park Industrial Estate, Congleton.

Mr Lewis fell approximately 7m through a roof light to the work-shop floor underneath, and subsequently died. Both the roof and the roof lights were not able to support the weight of a person.

No checks on knowledge and competence

The HSE investigation found that Leigh Bakewell, who primarily was a gardener and not a roofer, did not take precautions to prevent a fall through or from the roof. He did not have the necessary knowledge or competence to carry out the work.



Fragile roofs

Safe working practices



Roman Lodge Asset Management Limited failed to have adequate systems in place to ensure a competent roofer was appointed. Both the company and Jonathan Marshall failed to adequately plan and supervise the work, due to their own lack of understanding of standards and the law relating to work on fragile roofs.

- **Roman Lodge Asset Management Ltd** – of Congleton, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) and Regulation 5 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, and were fined £20,000 with £8,010.00 costs.
- **Jonathan Marshall** – director of the above company, pleaded guilty to breaching two counts of Section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was sentenced to four months imprisonment on each count (suspended for 12 months) and was ordered to pay £8,010.00 costs.
- **Leigh Bakewell** – the contractor, pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment (suspended for 12 months) and was ordered to pay £8,610.47 costs.

Defendants aware roof was fragile

HSE inspector Warren Pennington said after the hearing:

“This is an incredibly sad case all round. Each defendant knew that the roof was fragile and each accepted unsafe working practices. Terry Lewis was only on the roof in order to help out his best friend.

If Roman Lodge and Jonathan Marshall had asked questions about Leigh Bakewell’s experience and knowledge (of [roof work standards](#)), they would not have employed him.

Leigh Bakewell should have recognised he was not competent and should not have carried out the work. With these simple considerations, Mr Lewis would not have been on the roof and would not have died in the way he did.”

Common issues identified on Sites

Chris Livall Senior Safety Advisor

Following my previous month's inspections onsite I have found that more improvement is required on site security i.e. perimeter fencing, access gates etc. CDM 2015 Regulation 18 states that:

- a) Construction sites must so far as reasonably practicable have its perimeter identified by suitable signs and be arranged so that its intent is readily identifiable (or)
- b) be fenced off.

And no timber or other material with protruding nails or small sharp objects, that may be a source of danger to any person.

Nick Jones Safety Advisor

Recently I have found poor housekeeping to be a problem on site. Good order on site must be maintained in a reasonable state of cleanliness and can be enforced under CDM 2015 Regulation 18.

Typical poor examples incur scaffolding components left lying around site, waste material being allowed to accumulate in working areas and storage of materials in unsafe conditions and not clearly segregated.

Adrian Hatton Safety Advisor

During recent site visits I have noticed a common issue arising, which is a lack of people and plant segregation. CDM 2015 Regulation 27 traffic routes clearly states a construction site must be organised in such a way that so far as reasonable practicable pedestrians and vehicles can move without risks to health & safety.

Rogues Gallery



It's only a 5min job!



What dust?



Lean on me!



Getting ready for Bon Fire Night!